

XXXV
TECMUN



United Nations
Interregional Crime
Research Institute

Delegates:

I am pleased to welcome you to this amazing experience at TECMUN. Today, you are going to demonstrate all the work and dedication you have put to being in the place you are. It may be that at the beginning you get full of nerves, grief, stress or even happiness, I want to tell you that all those feelings will be worth it because I guarantee you that every second of this model you will enjoy it. During the 3 days of debate you will learn many new things but above all, you will meet wonderful people who will support you during and after the sessions, people who will become your friends, best friends and people who inspire you. I actually found one of the best people in my life on my first time as chair. I would also like to assure you that all the members of the table are committed to being at all times that you need us. Being part of TECMUN is something that will change your lives and the way you see the world. For me this model is the most important and the most beautiful thing of my high school. I am moved to tell you that of all the work I have done in recent months, my delegates have been my main inspiration and not only because I want to give them the best tools for the debate but also because I want to leave a part of TECMUN in your hearts. Today you have the opportunity to be heard. That is why I ask you to make the most of it, do it for all the voices that have been silenced. The actual world is in constant suffering. The topics we address these 3 days are only part of what is ending with the future, with the planet, with nature and with the human species, however, what is worth remembering is the will to defend an ideal and it is important that it be told that way because it has been indispensable for the formation of a feeling. A feeling that unites us today in this room. Finally, I want to thank you for being on this committee and allowing me to be your president.

President Samaria Sánchez Ramírez

President of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

XXXV TECMUN

Background of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) was created with the goal of expanding the United Nations operations on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. UNICRI was established as part of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1085 B in 1965. Today the Institute's headquarters are located in Turin, Italy and are integrated by 193 member states and 11 members of the Board of Trustees, who serve as experts and guides to achieve international security goals. UNICRI contributes for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by conducting research and field activities, supporting policy formulation on issues of social concern, and building technical assistance capacity for Member States.

Faculties

UNICRI works in specialized areas related to crime, justice, security governance and counter-terrorism, providing added value to crime prevention, advancement of justice and the protection of human rights. The Institute has special faculties to improve the actions, amongst the international community, related to tackling the threats that crime poses to world peace and development. One of these faculties is to create and manage programmes for preventing, controlling and detecting specific crimes and their consequences. UNICRI also has the power to formulate different protocols that help countries on risk mitigation with strategies that support the prevention and neutralization of criminal activities and to reunite relevant information related to crimes and share it with the corresponding organisms.

Topic A

The social protection and reintegration of demobilized child soldiers in Central Africa due to the implications of an armed conflict.

By: Samaria Sánchez Ramírez, Mariana Elisa Ortíz Loyola Solana and Paola Varela Hernández.

Introduction

Nowadays there are more than 250,000 child soldiers around the world that had been recruited since 1998 by belic groups, criminal organizations and, in some cases, by governmental armed forces. Some of the children list themselves due to social instability, poverty and lack of education in their origin countries. On the other hand, the vast majority of children are kidnapped by the armed forces and then forced to train as soldiers by being tortured, raped or forced to commit violence. Child soldiers constantly participate in belic conflicts acquiring important traumas whenever they murder or presence corpses that do not allow them to enjoy their childhood and the rights that it brings with it. In addition, the leaders of criminal organizations and radical groups demobilize the kids when it is considered that they cannot combat anymore.

Demobilization is a process where a soldier stands down from any armed forces whether because either the conflict has finished or the soldier's physical status does not allow him to continue on a combat-ready status. Most of the armed forces of countries from Central Africa demobilize child soldiers due to their physical conditions. They cannot continue living or training as soldiers and they must return with their communities regardless of their condition. Each one of the children with this specific situation becomes segregated by their families and origin communities because the civilians fear anyone who has participated with soldiers. Central African countries present many cases of child soldiers that actively participate during a belic conflict. These delegations also lack the necessary organisms and judicial codes that facilitate the reintegration and protection of demobilized child soldiers. The best example of this problematic in Central Africa is the Democratic Republic of Congo where almost 35% of the national armed forces are militarized youth. These children receive a unique education based on belic conflicts since their first 8 years and they work as messengers, cooks, decoys, soldiers and even as sexual slaves. The Democratic Republic of Congo is just one out of 14 countries in Central Africa that use militarized children to fight armed conflicts.

Background

Over the years many African communities have experienced at some stage or are experiencing a civil or armed conflict. To understand the actual situation of African children, it is necessary to recognize the context, consequences, and risks of a post-conflict nation that is still relapsing into armed conflicts. Nowadays in Africa, many children live in an environment that is constantly under threat of reverting to conflict, thousands of children are forced to participate

in internal conflicts, becoming involuntary combatants, many of these children are placed in combat line, while many others are compelled to serve as cooks, messengers, sex slaves and carry out suicide attacks. In recent years, conflicts have become more brutal and prolonged, which is why the number of children recruited has increased. Children are more vulnerable psychologically speaking so they are easier to manipulate to commit certain activities of violence, in some cases most of them have been used to witness acts of violence such as murder and sexual abuse, or have even been victims of the constant abuse of armed groups. Hence, the psychological trauma they have suffered is so strong that the return to their lives and the recovery of their childhood is so difficult that it even seems impossible.

In 2019, the NGO Child Soldiers International, on the International Day Against the Use of Child Soldiers, denounced that thousands of children are still forced to be soldiers in not less than 7 countries in Africa. The last UN report about children and armed conflicts in 2018, with 2017 information, ensure the continuous military use of children in Africa, in countries such as the Central African Republic have at least 14,000 verified cases of recruitment and in the Democratic Republic of Congo where more than 3,000 cases have been reported in 2017, UNICEF mentions these cases have been perpetrated by many active militias as Bana Mura and Kamuina Nsapu in the northeast of the country. "These statistics alone are important and probably only show the surface of the true scale of child exploitation by armed actors around the world"(Guitard, 2019).

In 2014, UNICEF estimated the increase, to 6,000, of the phenomenon of child soldiers in Central Africa since the *coup d'etat* in March 2013, in that year hundreds of thousands of people were forced to run away from their homes and that's why this phenomenon gets worse. The escape of civilians leaves children alone, unprotected and in some cases away from their parents consequently children become more vulnerable to being caught by military recruiters but also there are children alone in the street or in refugee groups who are more likely to suffer abuse and forcibly be enrolled in armed groups. The political scientist Sara K. Lischer recognized two main reasons by which children are recruited in refugee camps, the first one is the militarisation path which consist of the presence of militants in refugees camps influencing refugees, who are mostly children, for the militarisation and the volunteer recruitment. The second reason she recognized is the insecurity path which over the years gives way for potential recruiters of child soldiers who infiltrate the camps and indoctrinate children.

A Human Right Watch report from 2013 denounces belic conflicts mainly perpetrated to children as the cause of a country that is on the verge of chaos, the report also mentions that half of the Central African population is under 18, which means that nothing welfare is estimated for the future of African children.

Armed conflicts in Central Africa

Since 2012, the most recent armed conflict in the Central African Republic began. A quarter of the population has been affected by the confrontation between government forces and the armed group called Seleka. The Central African Republic is one of the more limited resources and unstable countries around the world, its history has been impacted by many violent conflicts and political instability.

In December 2013 violence in Central Africa broke out, with different armed groups controlling parts of the country. This republic has also been characterized by political-military instability since its independence, which in the last 10 years has led consecutive coups and armed conflicts. In that year the Seleka coalition seized power from former president Bozizé, unleashing the fifth coup, but this time the leaders had instrumentalized the community conflicts and religious property for political purposes. In responses, some defense groups and militias emerged as the so-called Anti-Balaka, after the clashes on both fronts, the Central African Republic sank into a cycle of revenge murders.

The fighting between the Christian anti-Balaka militia and the Muslim coalition Seleka has plunged the Central Africa Republic into a civil conflict. In 2013, a peace agreement was created seeking to reassure the country but the coalition members seized Bangui, the capital of the republic, forcing the president to flee and leaving the country in a state of violent chaos. Since September 2016, the situation in CAR has declined and in 2019 the NGO War Child announced that about 60% of the country is still under the control of armed groups, more than 25% of the population (680,000 people) are internally displaced or are refugees in border countries (500,000 people).

In the March 2016 election, when Faustin Archange Touadera was elected president, the situation in Central Africa worsened. Started a territorial division that paused the struggle between Christians and Muslims briefly but in late 2016 and early 2017 more clashes between ex-Seleka and Anti-Balakas began. Reports from human rights groups and UN agencies

suggest that crimes committed by former Seleka and Anti-Balaka forces amount to warfare crimes and crimes against humanity.

The conflict that the Central African Republic is going through has wreaked havoc in different fields. Economically, it left almost 75% of the population in poverty one of the factors by which children are recruited to the armed forces. Thousands of people have also died and 575,000 refugees have been displaced and most of them have fled to neighboring countries such as the Republic of Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The global conflict tracker of the Council of Foreign Relations said that a deterioration in security will increase sectarian violence and the spread will continue to destabilize the region, presenting challenges for neighboring countries.

In 2018, five years after de the armed conflict in the Central African Republic, life was harder and more dangerous for children. In this year a report about a crisis in Central Africa pointed out that every child needs protection from the armed groups who now control four-fifths of the country. Recently UNICEF said that after almost six years of fighting between armed groups and forces, the consequences for children have been devastating and mention that Central Africa is one of the worst places to be a child.

Usage of child soldiers in Central Africa

The Central African Republic has been listed as the most dangerous place for children due to the 2018 verified figures (UNICEF, 2018) that pointed out that the 80% of the country is under the control of the local warlords, which means that thousands of children have been recruited by armed groups, some of them are used as soldiers, others are exploited as cooks, porters, and spies. Most of the girls suffer horrific sexual and physical abuse. In addition, it is estimated that 40% of child soldiers globally are located within the African continent.

For many years, regions in Africa have been involved in a high rate of internal conflicts and sectarian violence, this because of the constant political disagreements and the quests to control resources, all these issues have contributed to poverty, malnutrition, and underdevelopment in many African States. Many of these conflicts have given rise to guerrilla and militia groups who are solely established to disrupt the current political dispensation in the quest to achieve their own goals and objectives; however, in some cases, these armed groups have been used and funded by politicians to further their own interests.

West Africa is the most notorious region well known for the use of child soldiers. Some conflicts that happened in the regions of Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia reveal a huge number of children used in armed combat, children as young as 7 were being recruited by armed groups and state forces. In 2017, states as the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo pointed out that due to the contemporary conflicts these regions have increased the use of child soldiers. These nations are involved by conflicts and political chaos that had come down into full-blown opposing side's battle out of control. As a result the deportation of the population have been significant, and the use of child soldiers has increased significantly as these states have descended into lawlessness ruled by armed groups.

The state role has been very minimal; hence, international organizations (nongovernmental organizations [NGOs]) have taken the role of negotiating the release of children within armed groups, government forces and resettling them into society. The African Union has failed as a continental body for the children trapped in armed conflicts in the countries before mentioned, and has also failed in providing clear policy towards peace and to establish the rule of law; therefore the numerous lack of involvement by the African Union has contributed significantly to the suffering of children and the increase in the displacement of children from these countries further making them more likely to be recruited by armed groups. This further contributes to the suffering and the prolonging of the conflict. In addition, many studies found that the limited protection of refugee camps, poverty, and kidnappings are the major factors contributing to the recruitment of child soldiers.

The general status of protection for child soldiers

The right to life, liberty, and security of a person can be found among the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, the United Nations highlights 14 countries, including Yemen, Syria, and Iraq, where thousands of children are recruited and used as soldiers in armed conflicts. Deprived of a secure, regular childhood and education, around 300,000 children are believed to be serving as mercenaries.

According to Renate Winter, President of the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child and of the Residual Special Court of Sierra Leone, some factors such as children's lack of proper education and resources, orphanhood, and vast availability in numbers make them great soldiers, as they can be easily manipulated through fear and intimidation. Some children are abducted and beaten into submission, some might join military groups to escape poverty or defend their fatherlands, others are encouraged to think of their actions substitute for playing

games. “Girls may join armed groups to leave traditional oppressive societies”, points Winter. By and large, many commanders of legitimate armies reason that children are the cheapest, most expendable weapon that can be used in armed conflict.

In countless conflicts, children take a direct part in combat. Nevertheless, their role is not limited to fighting. Many girls and boys are also used in support functions that also entail great risk and hardship. Their tasks can vary, from combatants to cooks, spies, messengers, and even sex slaves. Moreover, the use of children for acts of terror, including suicide bombers, has emerged as a phenomenon of modern warfare.

Regardless of how the children got into the groups, child noconflict to protect children from recruitment and use in hostilities. In which it is dictated, that the state soldiers are victims, whose participation in violent task implications for their physical and emotional well-being. Commonly, most of them are used as sexual objects and witnesses of murders, and sexual violence. Many are forced to commit acts of violence and some suffer serious long-term psychological consequences. The reintegration of these children into a common life is an essential part of the work to help child soldiers rebuild their lives.

In 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This talked about the involvement of children in armed may not recruit children under 18 to take them to armed conflict, that the states take the necessary actions to criminalize the recruitment of children under 18, and that the states save recruited children and provide them with the necessary tools to recover physically and emotionally, among others.

In 2014, with UNICEF, the Special Representative launched the campaign “Children, Not Soldiers” to bring about a global consensus that child soldiers should not be used in a conflict. The campaign was designed to generate momentum, political will, and international support to turn the page once and for all on the recruitment of children by national security forces in conflict situations.

Actions of UNICRI about child soldiers

For centuries, the recruitment of child soldiers has aimed against the proper development, liberty, safety and the life of countless kids. Nowadays, more than 357 million children live in combat and conflict zones and tens of thousands are believed to be serving as soldiers. Certain traits and circumstances, such as orphanhood, living with a shortage of resources, lack of

education, a threatening environment, and manipulation, turn children prone to be selected by armed forces or voluntarily enlist as mercenaries.

“They become fighters, suicide bombers, human shields, messengers, spies [...] and experience violence to the core either as witnesses, victims or active players” (TRT World, 2018). Despite it being an international war crime, 56 non-state- armed groups and seven state armed forces in 14 countries use children as soldiers. A recent study, directed by Simon Reich, concluded Africa has become the epicenter of this issue, concentrating 40 % of the global number of child soldiers. In response to the circumstances, two decades ago 167 countries and multiple organizations came together to condemn and take action against the use of children in armed conflict.

UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake stated that the world’s united commitment matched with action over the course of the years resulted in more than 65,000 children being liberated from armed groups. In addition to this, the campaign Children, Not Soldiers launched in 2014 aiming to generate political will and international support to “turn the page once and for all on the recruitment of children by national security forces in conflict situations” (UN, 2017) received immediate support from the Member States, UN, NGO partners, regional organizations and the general public.

As part of the actions, UNICEF has criminalized the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and issued a military order to stop and prevent child recruitment. They have initiated investigations to later prosecute those who recruit and use children as military personnel and they have also appointed child protection specialists in the security forces to seek to free all the children identified in the ranks of the security forces.

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Topic B

Measures to improve the nuclear risks mitigation in South Asia due to the proliferation of radical groups in the region of Kashmir.

By: Samaria Sánchez Ramírez, Mariana Elisa Ortíz Loyola Solana and Paola Varela Hernández.

Introduction

Since 1947, after the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan gained their independence from the United Kingdom, both countries have been fighting to acquire the territory of Kashmir. The religious differences in both countries were the most important factor to begin a belic conflict for this territory. By the year of 1972, Kashmir was peacefully divided into two halves; the Pakistan-administered and the Indian-administered. Despite the insurgency of the Indian half population a new intervention began and both armies were well-armed and well-prepared for a belic conflict. In 1998 the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of India declared themselves as nuclear powers after testing nuclear weapons with the argument of protecting themselves for any other armed conflict. The nuclear arsenals have grown in the region of South Asia and for the last 22 years and there have been an important increase in radical attacks on the region. Some of them, like the Mumbai attacks or the Osama Bin laden intervention in Pakistan had been mainly focused on acquiring nuclear arsenal for extremist groups. Even though the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan declared a “no first use of nuclear weapons” policy, both armies continue expanding nuclear facilities and developing nuclear weapons with the international permission of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China. This scenario has led to the establishment of important extremist groups in the region such as Al-Qaeda that could compromise the international security while taking advantage of the wide nuclear arsenals in South Asia.

On 22 August 2019 in the BBC News, Christopher Clary mention that the effect on security, accidents and possible misunderstandings will not be clearly understood for some time, but it is likely that South Asia cannot completely avoid the costly and dangerous arms. South Asia is a volatile and unstable region, has been witnessing in military and nuclear rivalry. This rivalry for many analytics is alarming but is even more complex by the mutual and historical enmities in the region. According to the New York Times article called “Nuclear Fears in South Asia”, analysts estimate that India has about 110 warheads, but continues to expand its nuclear program at a slower pace. They have a mixed strategy, combining short and long range ballistic missiles, nuclear submarines and cruise missiles. While Pakistan's economic and political instability raises huge and worrisome doubts as the country is challenged by radical groups and the fear that these groups can obtain nuclear materials persists, despite the strong insistence of Pakistani officials about its nuclear facilities.

Kashmir conflict and its implications for South Asia security

The conflict between the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan over Kashmir started by a fateful decision in 1947 and has resulted in decades of violence. This area, Kashmir, is divided between India and Pakistan, and the two nuclear-armed republics have previously triggered three armed conflicts over the region. Indian-administered Kashmir is now the scene of a decades-old armed campaign by radical groups who want the territory to either join Pakistan or become independent.

First armed conflict

The beginning of the conflict, which has lasted more than 70 years, is located in the colonial past of these two countries with the British decolonization. In 1947 the separation between Muslim and Hindu communities began, being considered "different nations not only in their religious beliefs, but also in their cultures, customs, traditions and moral codes" as the Pakistani ambassador mentioned in the School of Oriental Studies of the University of El Salvador in 2003.

Kashmir in 1947 was ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh, a Hindu, who wanted the independence of Kashmir and therefore would try to postpone the annexation of any of the two countries. At that time the population of the region, mostly Muslim, with support from irregular Pakistani troops would initiate a rebellion at the possibility of being part of the Republic of India. The Maharaja in this situation was forced to request help in India and sign the Kashmir Adhesion Instrument to India in October of that year, with that instrument, the nation was granted special status within the Indian constitution, that status guaranteed that Kashmir would have independence over everything but communications, foreign affairs and defense but this special status was revoked in August 2019 by the Indian government. The inevitable decision of the Maharaja to align Kashmir with India would initiate the first armed conflict in this region and the beginning of decades of conflict in the disputed region, including two more conflicts and a long-standing insurgency.

Second armed conflict

In 1965, the Kashmir situation would become untenable so the second armed conflict would begin in response to the Gibraltar Operation which consisted of infiltrating Pakistani troops in this area. On August 5, 1965 Pakistani soldiers crossed the "Control Line" between India and Pakistan. At the hearing the Indian forces proceeded to cross the same line 10 days later, initiating a series of attacks between nations. The United Nations would intervene again

to stop the conflict. In 1966, the quotas would have to sign the Tashkent Declaration agreeing to respect the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and committing to resolve the dispute peacefully according to the Charter of the United Nations but none of this would succeed.

In 1971, the Pakistani movements achieved the independence of East Pakistan and the creation of the State of Bangladesh, this is interpreted as a direct attack and the crisis degenerates into a new armed conflict. In 1972, the Simla Agreement was signed, in which both countries agreed to resolve the conflict peacefully and established a Control Line again. However, numerous violations of the perimeter of the Control Line have taken place since that year.

Third armed conflict

Despite attempts to keep the peace in the Kashmir conflict, the tension has never disappeared, so in 1999 the third armed conflict begins when 400 Pakistanis infiltrated Indian Kashmir, specifically, Kargil. India responded with air attacks and after two months of fighting, India was supported by international diplomacy and regained the territories after Pakistan finally decided to withdraw. In that year before the conflict the Indian Prime Minister, Vajpayee, traveled to Pakistan to meet with President Nawaz Sharif and Lahore's declaration was signed in order to reduce the risk of nuclear accidents. However, the statements on a document did not reflect the true intentions of the countries and that is why since this third conflict nuclear tension has increased significantly in South Asia.

Beyond the always latent threat of a new warlike confrontation between India and Pakistan, the actions of armed radical groups is a major challenge, taking into account the decisive influence of Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, for its proliferation. Other factors that take advantage of radical groups for the recruitment of people are; the shortage in which a large part of the population lives, the almost permanent violence between nations since decades ago and the frustration of feeling treated in a denigrating way and not with the corresponding respect they deserve as citizens. However, not all groups are equal, in an infobae article called "*Cachemira, dividida, bloqueada y en disputa: por qué es tan peligrosa la nueva jugada nacionalista de India*" the author mentions that:

Some are more linked to Pakistani forces, and others less. There are those who want the incorporation into the country of the crescent and those who ensure independence. And in recent

years the Islamists have been growing, with more or less clear links with jihadist organizations. (Mizrahi, 2020)

Radical groups in Kashmir

The Indian government has fought off various Kashmiri groups such as the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), as well as Pakistan supported militant groups like the *Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)* and *Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)* among others. Following a relative lull in violence in the 2000s, the insurgency was reignited in 2016 after the murder of Burhan Wani, a local militant commander with extensive social media following. Notwithstanding the protracted insurgency in Kashmir, global jihadist groups, such as Al Qaeda and IS have struggled to cultivate a substantial presence in the region. Given the two groups success in attracting foreign militants into other conflict zones such as Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan, their limited traction in this territory is notable.

In the case of Afghanistan in the 1980s and Syria since 2011, major mobilization of foreign fighters was witnessed with strong access to conflict zones (the battlefield). This was facilitated by Maktab Al-Khidmat headquartered in Peshawar, run by Osama bin Laden and Abdullah Azzam, that arranged logistics for foreign fighters who intended to fight in Afghanistan. For instance, due to the Cold War between the US and Russia in the 1980s, many countries including Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Yemen among others were eager to facilitate foreign fighters to topple the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in Afghanistan and develop closer ties with the US.

In Kashmir, current insurgent groups are broadly united in their desire to bring the nation under the control of Pakistan, a Muslim majority country. While this may seem like a religious ambition, the reality is different since these groups use Islamist rhetoric for furthering recruitment and ideological justification. This was evident during the demise of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) during the 1990s.

Increase in nuclear tensions in South Asia in the last decade

While the fighting between India and Pakistan continued, both nations had developed nuclear weapons by 1999, sparking concerns about a nuclear war among the international community. “In May 1998, India conducts three underground nuclear tests. One is a thermonuclear weapon. Later in May, Pakistan tests six nuclear weapons in response to India’s tests, (ICAN, 2017). Even though, since 2003 both countries have maintained a fragile ceasefire the countries

usually exchange fire across the Control Line, the Global Conflict Tracker in 2020 mention that India and Pakistan accuse each other of violating the ceasefire and excuse themselves by ensuring that they only fire in response to previous attacks. Intermittent violent attacks continue, as well as multiple human rights violations reports. A series of attacks along the border that began in 2016 and lasted until 2018 killed dozens and displaced thousands of civilians. For decades, the international community has recognized South Asia as “an epicenter of terrorism and religious extremism and therefore has an interest in ensuring regional stability, preventing nuclear weapons proliferation”. (Global Conflict Tracker, 2020)

Pakistan-Chinese relations have an extended story that began when Pakistan became one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China in 1951. Since then, both countries have maintained a remarkably close and collaborative relationship. Through the years, China has provided economic and military support to Pakistan. PRC has even gone as far as financing the expansion of Pakistani nuclear arsenals with more \$6.5 billion to strengthen their relationship with a 'strategic ally' (BBC, 2017).

While the United States and Russia account for around 92% of the world's estimated 1,900 nuclear weapons, Pakistan is not tied to any treaty that requires the country to divulge information. (Science Magazine, 2019) The Council on Foreign Relations remarked that Pakistan has tripled its number of warheads over the last decade. Members of the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado Boulder estimate Pakistan and India may have 400 to 500 nuclear weapons by 2025 (Science Magazine, 2019). “We might die as unintended consequences that the Indian and Pakistani generals never even gave a thought about”, pointed out the atmospheric scientist: Owen Toon.

Nuclear arsenal of Pakistan

Pakistan, with the world's fastest-growing nuclear arsenal, is unquestionably the biggest concern. This nation has airplanes with nuclear capacity, such as the *F-16A/B* and *Mirage III/V*, that reach up to 2100 km, 8 types of land ballistic missiles with a range of up to 2750 km, and two types of cruise missiles with ranges of up to 350 km. Since India has almost 400 cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants, Pakistan could attack just over a third of all medium and large-sized cities with its current arsenal and more than two thirds by the year 2025. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is developing capacities for sea-based nuclear weapons. It is also worrisome as the Pakistani army over the years becomes more dependent on nuclear arsenals but according to Pakistani officials, Pakistan's nuclear weapons are

dismantled and the parts are stored in different locations to reduce the possibility of radical groups capturing the weapons.

Nuclear arsenal of India

In 2018, the expectation of stockpiles in India was 130 to 140 nuclear warheads, however, up to 200 warheads can be expanded by 2025. India has airplanes with nuclear capacity, such as the *Mirage 2000H* and *Jaguar IS/IB*, with scopes of 1850 km. This nation also has four types of land ballistic missiles that have been reached up to 3200 km and others that are still under development but are expected to have a range of up to 5200 km, the range of these missiles allows India to reach all of Pakistan now. The Republic of India also has a ballistic missile deployed by ship and two undersea missiles in development. Pakistan has about 60 cities with a population of more than 10,000 inhabitants so India could attack each city in Pakistan, regardless of size, with only two nuclear warheads using its current arsenal.

Regional response and UNICRI actions about the nuclear risks in South Asia

South Asia has had a long history of developing innovative confidence building measures. Nevertheless, even nowadays there has been no effective development for the nuclear risk mitigation, on the conflict resolution or arms control regimes but the threat facing the South Asia region has tried to respond so inadequately. The violence in the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan should be addressed as the highest priority to South Asian security and must be effectively attended, “by identifying the highest risk, both countries can re-purpose and expand the established mechanisms to deal directly with the nuclear security environment in the region” (Khan & Emily, n.d). Regional response is important but at the same time the groups and institutes of the United Nations, such as UNICRI, have taken some actions to address this problem.

UNICRI and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Global Coordination Compact – Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, began the establishment of “Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge about Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism” which was created by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT). Nowadays the scientist development and emerging technologies have been transforming the way the world population lives, the industry and global economy in a positive way but at the same time these technologies and artificial intelligence represent an important potential for radical groups that’s why UNICRI and other

United Nations groups decided to implement that project and make a call to contribute to the project.

The call has the objective to attend the concerns that have been presented in multiple UN resolutions and statements of the UN Secretary-General. Another objective of this call is to identify innovative ideas and new solutions that contribute specifically to mitigate the emerging and future risks associated with weapons of mass destruction, focused on radical groups that can use scientific and technological advances in inappropriate situations. The call is organized by UNICRI and is open until 31 January 2020 for security experts, representatives from industry, academia, civil society and international organizations. UNICRI will use the results to produce a “Report on Emerging and Future Risks”, this report will serve to scan technologies resolutions to anticipate and mitigate the risks caused by weapons of mass destruction. Most of the UNICRI faculties can help the South Asia region with improvements and security protocols to enhance their protection for nuclear arsenals.

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